

Claims.

- 1) A cutting tool having a blade and a member which is biased towards a safety position in which the member forms a guard for the blade, but which may be displaced to expose the blade by bringing the tool into cutting contact with a workpiece, and a locking mechanism having a trigger which must be moved from a first position to a second position to release the guard member from its safety position and arranged such that each time the guard member is released from its safety position, is displaced through a predetermined distance, and then returns to its safety position, the guard member will become locked in place regardless of the position of the trigger.
- 2) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the guard member is pivotally mounted to the tool.
- 3) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, wherein the locking action of the cutting tool is provided by a strut which is pivotally joined to the guard member, the distal end of the strut being arranged to follow a loop.
- 4) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3, wherein the strut is arranged to pivot in a vertical plane.
- 5) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, wherein a lug at the distal end of the strut slidably locates within a looped recess.
- 6) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the recess comprises a guide-channel which extends substantially perpendicularly to the axis of the longitudinal axis of the strut and within which the lug prevents substantial axial

movement of the strut.

7) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 6, arranged such that as the trigger is displaced from said first position to said second position, the strut is displaced such that lug 5 slides out of one end of the channel.

8) A cutting tool as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the locking mechanism is arranged such that the guard member cannot be released from said safety position unless the tool is in contact with the workpiece.

10 9) A cutting tool as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge.

10) A cutting tool having a blade and a sliding blade-carriage formed with an elongate projection which extends substantially perpendicularly through a slot formed in the blade, the projection being rotatable about an axis parallel to its longitudinal axis and the slot being of substantially the same diameter as the projection and extending substantially perpendicularly to the axis of movement of the carriage, so that as the projection is rotated, the blade is correspondingly advanced or withdrawn relative to the carriage.

11) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the blade is provided in a replaceable cartridge

12) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 11, wherein the blade-carrier is mounted to the replaceable cartridge.

13) A cutting tool having a passageway for receiving a elongate blade formed with one or more lines of weakness defining successive blade sections, a portion of the tool being

displaceable to detach a distal section of the blade from the remainder of the blade such that the detached blade section is retained within a containment region of the tool.

14) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 13, wherein the
5 displaceable portion comprises a portion of the passageway
formed by opposed first and second walls pivotally mounted such
that they may be displaced to one side of the passageway to
allow an end section of the blade to be introduced into the gap
thus formed, and then brought back into line with the
10 passageway to detach the end section from the remainder of the
blade.

15) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 14, wherein the
portion of the passageway formed by the first and second walls
is arranged to pivot away from the passageway about the forward
15 edge of the portion.

16) A cutting tool as claimed in any of Claims 13 to 15,
wherein the detached end section of the blade is pressed
through an opening into the containment region.

17) A cutting tool as claimed in any of Claims 13 to 16,
20 wherein the passageway is provided in a replaceable blade-
cartridge.

18) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 17, wherein the
replaceable blade cartridge also provides the containment
region for receiving detached blade sections.

25 19) A cutting tool as claimed in any of Claims 13 to 18,
wherein the tool or, where the tool comprises a replaceable
blade-cartridge, the blade-cartridge, is formed from a blank
comprising three collinear elongate portions arranged to be

folded together along their adjoining edges such that the passageway for receiving an elongate blade is formed between the opposed faces of two adjacent portions of the blank, and the containment region is formed between the opposed faces of one of the two adjacent portions and a face of the remaining portion.

20) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19, wherein the blank is arranged for two adjacent portions of the blank to be folded together, to form the passageway between their opposed faces, and for the portions on opposite sides of the blank to then be folded together, to form the containment region between their opposed faces.

21) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 19 or Claim 20, wherein the blank is formed from a plastics material having fold lines formed by compressed regions of the blank.

22) A cutting tool as claimed in any of Claims 19 to 21, wherein the opposed faces of the two portions which form the containment region are each formed with a plurality of projections for inhibiting movement of detached blade sections within the containment region.

23) A cutting tool comprising a replaceable blade-cartridge within which a blade is carried such that the blade may be slid from an exposed position to a retracted position and comprising means for preventing the cartridge from being removed from the tool whilst the blade is in its exposed position and means which lock the blade in its retracted position as the cartridge is removed from the tool.

24) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 23, comprising a blade-carrier and wherein the means for preventing the

cartridge from being removed from the tool whilst the blade is in its exposed position comprise a pivoting catch having a first portion which engages a part of the tool body when the blade is in its exposed position, and a second portion which is displaced by the blade-carrier when the blade is in its retracted position to disengage the first portion from said part of the tool body.

25) A cutting tool as claimed in Claim 23, comprising a blade-carrier and wherein the means which lock the blade in its retracted position as the cartridge is removed from the tool comprise a pivoting catch having a first portion which engages the blade-carrier when the blade is in its retracted position and the cartridge is outside of the tool, and a second portion which is displaced by a part of the tool body when the blade is inserted into the tool to disengage the first portion from the blade-carrier.